GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:395
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
USE OF SEA WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demonstration in regard to processes viz. Multi Stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) has been successfully carried out by the Government;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the time by which the people will be able to reap benefit from the said process;

(d) whether any foreign country has been making use of the sea water for agricultural purposes; and

(e) if so, the details of technology adopted for the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) of Department of Atomic Energy has developed two processes, viz. Multi Stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) for desalination of water from the ocean. BARC has set up a demonstratio desalination plant at Madras Atomic Power Station, at Kalpakkam, for the conversion of sea water into potable water for drinking purpose and process water requirement of the power station.

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) of Department of Ocean Development has also proposed to produce fresh water from sea water by using the above two techniques.

Central Salt and Marine chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, have one R&D project or development of sea water membrane. They are trying to develop this technology for the last one year and this technology, once developed may be used for reverse osmosis.

Regarding its potability and use for agricultural purpose, this water may be potable and may be affordable for drinking purpose but it may not be cost effective for agriculture.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): In view of (d) above, does not arise.